

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Sheets are submitted for Figures 13 and 14.
These figures have been labeled as "BACKGROUND ART".

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Replacement drawings are submitted for Figures 13 and 14 labeling these figures as "BACKGROUND ART" consistent with the disclosure on the last line of page 17 through page 18, line 5. The above change is the only change and is believed not to introduce new matter.

Claims 1-16 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 8 are canceled and new claim 17 is added. Therefore, claims 3-7 and 9-17 are presented for consideration.

Claim 11 is amended to include the unit Å to address the claim objection noted in the Official Action. See paragraph [0025] of the application as filed for support for the recited unit.

Claims 1-9 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over MILEY et al. 6,171,451 in view of FETHERSTON et al. 5,693,376. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present claims are amended to clarify that containing-fullerene or containing-nanotube is formed from fullerene or nanotube.

By contrast, MILEY uses inertial electrostatic confinement (IEC) to produce fullerene from carbon-based gases having a high chemical reactivity. See column 4, lines 61-65.

Thus, in MILEY, the end product is the fullerene. MILEY never discloses the use of fullerenes to produce containing-fullerenes.

FETHERSTON is only cited with respect to ion implantation on a target surface. FETHERSTON does not disclose producing fullerenes and never discloses using fullerenes to produce containing-fullerenes as recited.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over MILEY et al. in view of FETHERSTON et al. and further in view of TAKEHARA et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

TAKEHARA is only cited with respect to features of dependent claim 10. TAKEHARA does not overcome the shortcomings of MILEY and FETHERSTON set forth above with respect to claim 6. Since claim 10 depends from claim 6 and further defines the invention, claim 10 is believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

New claim 17 is added. Support for claim 17 can be found at least in paragraph [0031] of the application as filed. Claim 17 depends from claim 3 and is believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Further, the bias voltage used to produce containing-fullerene is less than any voltage applied in MILEY. Similarly, the plasma flow is slower than that in MILEY. Thus, claim 17 includes features not disclosed by MILEY.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- Replacement Sheets for Figures 13 and 14